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QLD's top art galleries and museums recognised State Awards

Queensland's public galleries and museums were formally recognised at the **2016 Gallery and Museum Achievement Awards** (GAMAA) at a gala event proudly presented by Museums & Galleries Queensland and hosted by Creative Arts Redlands – Redland Performing Arts Centre and Redland Art Gallery, on Tuesday 22 November 2016.

Surf World Gold Coast Inc. at Currumbin on the Gold Coast was **announced the Winner** for its outstanding achievement in the category of 'Engagement: Organisations Volunteer Run' for its development program *Sharing the Stoke*.

Surf World is Queensland's only museum solely dedicated to surfing heritage and beach culture. In the past twelve months, the museum's volunteer management committee and staff delivered an impressive line up of events and public programs including: the 2016 Nikon Surf Photo/Movie of the Year Exhibition; hosting filmmaker Phil Avalon's book launch; film screenings; and engaging with audiences at many off-site events including pop-up museums, music festivals and tourism expos.

Other initiatives included the revamp of Surf World's website, implementing a collection management systems to facilitate improved access to the collection, securing government grants to improve visitor experiences and developing a marketing strategy to entice visitors. Through these initiatives, partnerships were strengthened and new ones developed, providing important legacy outcomes for Surf World.

Presented by **Museums & Galleries Queensland** (M&G QLD), the GAMAA celebrate the outstanding achievements, professional excellence, and innovation of Queensland's museum and gallery sector. It also recognises the valuable contribution that our State's museums and galleries make in enriching their local and wider communities, and honours the extraordinary commitment and talents of paid professionals and volunteers working in the industry.

M&G QLD Executive Director, Rebekah Butler said the GAMAA continue to recognise and celebrate the remarkable achievements of our museums and galleries and are testament to the skill, ingenuity and professionalism of the sector.

“This year’s GAMAA recipients reflect a diverse range of large and small organisations. M&G QLD extends its congratulations to all of the 2016 GAMAA winners, finalists and nominees. We also thank our 2016 judges, sponsors and partners in supporting this important industry event,” Ms Butler said.

Each year, M&G QLD commissions a different Queensland artist to create the GAMAA trophy. This year’s award Winners were presented with an exquisite trophy handcrafted by Brisbane-based ceramic artist **Kenji Uranishi**. The GAMAA trophies are generously sponsored by Brian Tucker Accounting.

For a full list of GAMAA recipients go to the M&G QLD website at www.magsq.com.au.

For media enquiries or images, please contact:

Rebekah Butler, Executive Director

Museums & Galleries Queensland

Phone: **07 3059 9740** Freecall: **1800 866 101** Mobile: **0422 579 180**

Email: rebekah.butler@magsq.com.au Website: www.magsq.com.au

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